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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Nora B. AGHASSI et al.

DKT NO. P6335.01CPA 12/3/01

SER NO.: 09/515,283

Group Art Unit: 1641

FILED AS A CPA: October 1, 2001

Examiner: James L. Grun

FOR: COMPOSITION AND METHOD FOR
TREATING TISSUE SAMPLES

TO: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

DEC - 6 2001

TECH CENTER 1600/2330

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

In the Specifications:

Please delete the final sentence added to the end of the final paragraph of Page 4 and Page 5 as added in the Response to Office Action dated October 25, 2000. This section being deleted is as follows: "An aqueous composition is provided for enhancing antigenicity composing up to about 25% by volume of surfactants."

In the specification on Page 8 at the end of the first full paragraph add the following statement from original claim 9:

--The surfactant is at a composition range of between 0.1 and 0.5 percent.--

Amendment to the Claims:

Cancel original claims 1-16 and enter the following claims 17-44.

17. A composition for enhancing immunochemical staining of paraffin-embedded, formalin-fixed tissue in a single step comprising immersing said tissue in said composition for a period of at least 10 min, the composition consisting essentially of;

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